

ETUDES FOR PAPA

老爸練習曲

The latest work from Sean Chuang, winner of the Golden Comics Awards for Best Comic for Young Adults and Comic of the Year in 2014 for 80's Diary in Taiwan, applies ink wash techniques to the manga format and shows what it's like to learn to be a father.

Sean Chuang excels at portraying life through manga. Following on from his best-selling graphic memoir, *A Filmmaker's Notes*, he again draws on his own experiences to tell readers how he learned to be a father.

The nineteen chapters of the book each cover a different period of his child's life: the anxiety of pregnancy; the sleepless nights; the toilet-training; and all the beautiful moments as his son grows.

Sean Chuang often starts his chapters by recalling his own childhood memories and the changes since then. Finding himself faced with a child who simply will not sit still to be fed, for example, he remembers his own parents having to chase him to try to get him to eat. And so the book becomes not just the experiences of being a father, but a reflection on what it means to be a son.

Sean Chuang 小莊

Sean Chuang is a director of commercial films. More than ten years ago, he published *A Filmmaker's Notes* in the form of a comic. The book, fresh in style, was well received. In 2009 he finished his second work, *The Window*, a full-colour comic that had been a decade in the making. Using a storyboard technique and a non-narrative pantomime approach, it received GIO's Graphic Novel Award. Sean Chuang continues to work both in film and to draw. In 2013 he finished his third graphic novel, *80's Diary in Taiwan*.



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Rights contact:

booksfromtaiwan.rights@gmail.com

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小莊
Sean CHUANG

Sean CHUANG has 20 years of experience as an advertising director, directing more than 400 works. He was awarded the Times Awards and the Times Asia-Pacific Award multiple times. As a well-known Taiwanese advertisement director, his works span China, Singapore and Japan. In 1997 he published *Film Maker's Notes* recording work and life which was a hot seller with 18 reprints, becoming a classic and required reading in the industry and related school departments. In 2010, he finished his second work *The Window*, Taiwan's first graphic novel, and in 2011 a Spanish translation was published. In 2013 and 2015, *'80s Diary in Taiwan vol.1-2* were published, recording the life and culture of Taiwan in the 1980s, and have been translated into French, German and Italian. Still active in advertising circles, Director Sean CHUANG continues to shoot videos and draw comics.

Awards and Exhibitions

- 2009 *The Window* was awarded the Government Information Office's Best Graphic Novel Award
- 2012, 2014, 2015 representative artists at the Taiwan Pavilion of the Angoulême International Comics Festival
- 2013 invited to join Hong Kong Independent Comics Artist, Belgium Brussels Comics Festival and A Parallel Tale: *Taipei in 80s x Hong Kong in 90s* group exhibition
- 2014 *'80s Diary in Taiwan vol. 1* won Golden Comic Awards Best Young Male Comic and Comic of the Year
- 2015 *'80s Diary in Taiwan* solo exhibition at Belgian Comic and *L'OUVRE 9* group exhibition at MoNTUE, Taipei
- 2017 invited to London University, Jagiellonian University, German Comic Con München, Modern Graphics Berlin, and MANGASIA Rome group exhibition
- 2018 invited to Lucca Comics & Games

I remember an afternoon, the floor around me soaking up heat from the glaring sun...



I was surrounded by toys, playing...

Suddenly I looked up, and my eyes met my dad's gaze...



I shrieked up at him but he just smiled.

It's incredible, those early years...

A child really distracts you from the worries of getting old...

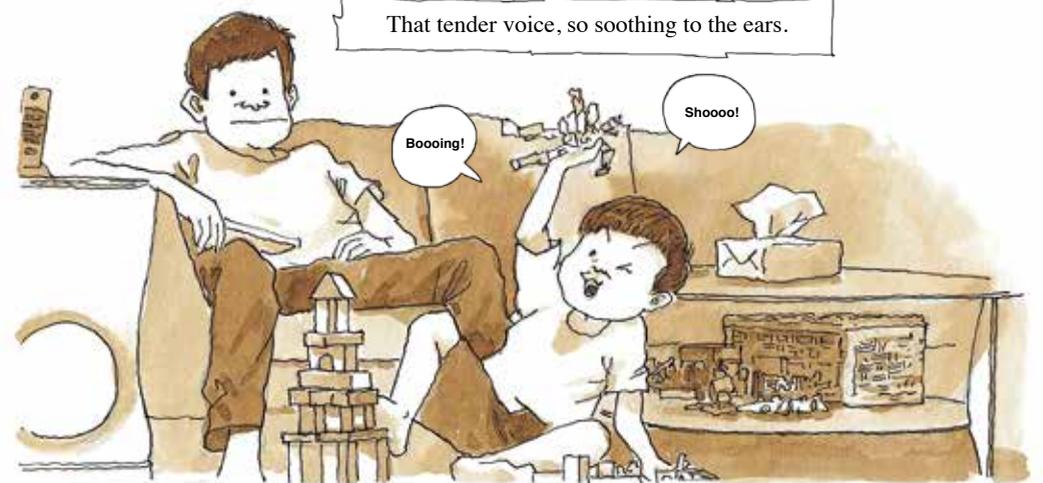


Cute little hands...

Not yet hardened by time, still so smooth and shiny...



That tender voice, so soothing to the ears.



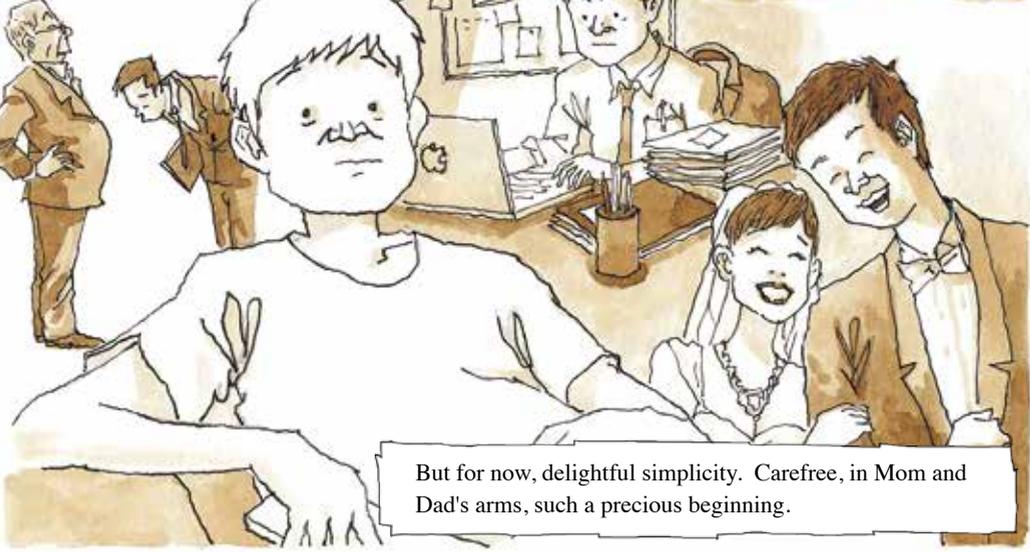
Still, you can't help but imagine the future...



They'll change...

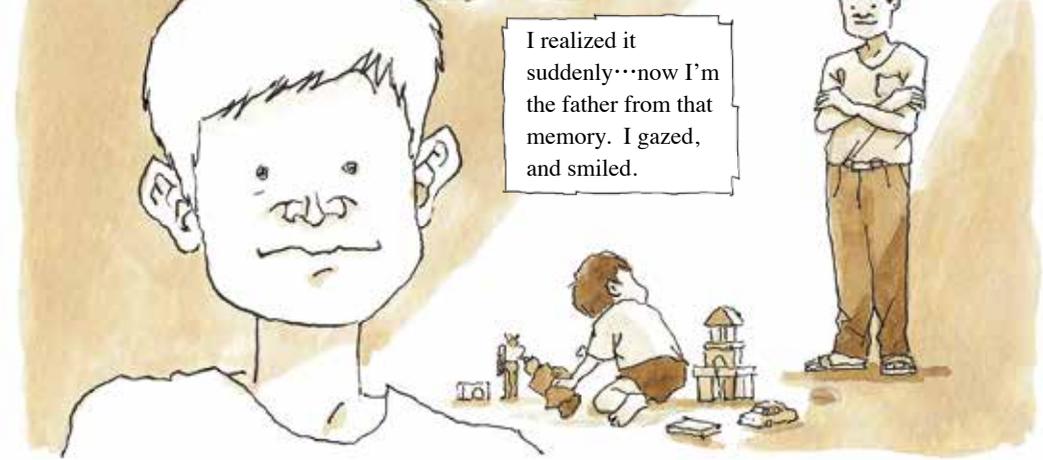


Hormones and secrets and mistakes, they'll grow up...



But for now, delightful simplicity. Carefree, in Mom and Dad's arms, such a precious beginning.

WHAT!?



I realized it suddenly...now I'm the father from that memory. I gazed, and smiled.